

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 29-APRIL 4

1. SUMMARY: THIS WAS AN UNUSUALLY SLOW WEEK IN WASHINGTON. AS SOMEONE POINTED OUT, THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS WERE ALL AWAY FROM THEIR OFFICES THIS WEEK. HE MIGHT HAVE ALSO ADDED THAT THE CONGRESS WAS IN RECESS UNTIL MONDAY. THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM WAS, OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL. THE SENATE ALSO RESUMED ITS DEBATE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES ON MONDAY.

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2. PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT IN LATIN AMERICA. BY AND LARGE WE WERE SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF OUR MEETINGS IN BOTH VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL. WE REINFORCED OUR TIES WITH THE VENEZUELAN AND IMPARTED A NEW POSITIVE MOMENTUM TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BRAZILIANS.

3. VENEZUELA. THERE ARE AREAS WHERE THE VENEZUELAN AND

WE HAVE REAL POLICY DISAGREEMENTS. THEIR THIRD-WORLD PERSPECTIVE AND DISTINCT SET OF NATIONAL INTERESTS PUT OUR DIFFERENCES IN SHARP PERSPECTIVE. HOWEVER, THESE SHOULD NOT OVERSHADOW THE FUNDAMENTAL AMITY BETWEEN THE

TWO COUNTRIES OR THE RAPPORT BETWEEN OUR TWO PRESIDENTS WHICH MADE THE FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSION OF OUR DIFFERENCES POSSIBLE. REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, THE PRESIDENT ASKED PEREZ TO COUNSEL PATIENCE TO TORRIJOS. PEREZ REPLIED THAT HE HAD, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF STATEMENT THAT NOTHING IN THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES WOULD CONTRAVENE THE UN OR OAS CHARTERS TO TAKE THE STING OUT OF THE DECONCINI RESERVATION. ON THE SUBJECT OF BELIZE, PEREZ THOUGHT THAT GUATEMALA COULD REDUCE ITS LAND CLAIMS TO "BORDER RE-ADJUSTMENTS" WHICH PRICE COULD ACCEPT. HE SAW THE SAME KIND OF SOLUTION FOR VENEZUELA'S DISPUTE WITH GUYANA.

4. PEREZ STRONGLY FAVORED CONCERTED ACTION IN NICARAGUA TO FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF SOMOZA. PRESIDENT CARTER REGISTERED HIS STRONG DISAGREEMENT BECAUSE SUCH INTERVENTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS NOT THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES. THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD URGE SOMOZA TO INVITE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO VISIT HIS COUNTRY.

5. ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, PEREZ COULD SEE NO REAL PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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GRESS. PRESIDENT CARTER ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PART TO THE STRIDENCY OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH PUSH TOO HARD FOR TOO MUCH TOO SOON AND THEREBY HURT THEIR CAUSE, ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS HOPING FOR SOME QUIET MEETINGS IN WHICH THE REAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS COULD BE SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITHOUT POSTURING OR INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS.

6. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS CONCERNED THAT VENEZUELA IS FALLING BEHIND IN OIL EXPLORATION AND WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG IN THIS AREA. OUR POSITION HAS BEEN THAT VENEZUELA SHOULD WORK WITH PRIVATE CORPORATIONS DIRECTLY. PRESIDENT CARTER ESCHEWED ANY DEVIATION FROM THAT POSITION.

7. BRAZIL. THE VISIT IN THAT COUNTRY WAS MUCH BETTER THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. THE POSITIVE MOOD BEGAN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, THOUGH THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL -- ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION -- REMAIN THE

TONE OF DISCOURSE HAS BEEN NOTABLY IMPROVED. THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY, AS WELL AS A SUB-GROUP UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON AGRICULTURE.

WE ALSO OFFERED COOPERATION IN THORIUM TECHNOLOGY SHOULD THE BRAZILIANS SO DESIRE IN THE FUTURE.

8. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FIVE LEADING BRAZILIANS IN RIO DE JANEIRO WENT WELL ALSO. THERE WAS A SENSE THAT PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BEEN MADE IN BRAZIL. HOWEVER, THESE GAINS COULD BE LOST BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED AND THUS COULD BE WITHDRAWN BY A BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT AT ANY TIME. VANCE
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